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Circular No. 694

January 1944 • Washington, D. C.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

CURRENT
FEB 24 1944
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



The Midland and Fairpeake Strawberries

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INTRODUCTION

Two new varieties of strawberries named Midland and Fairpeake are described in this circular. In eastern Maryland, Midland is an unusually productive early variety of high dessert quality, and Fairpeake is a late variety, considered highest in flavor and dessert quality of any variety now grown.

MIDLAND

The Midland is being introduced for trial as an early commercial variety with large fruits of above-average dessert and shipping qualities. It is recommended for trial for the general market from Virginia to southern New England and westward to Arkansas and Iowa.

ORIGIN AND DESCRIPTION

Midland (U. S. D. A. 1812) originated as a cross between Howard 17 (Premier) and Redheart made by George F. Waldo and George M. Darrow in 1929, was among the selections made in 1931, and has been notable for its large fruits and productiveness.

Midland produces plants freely. The plants are vigorous, and the leaves are large and resistant to leaf spot and leaf scorch. The

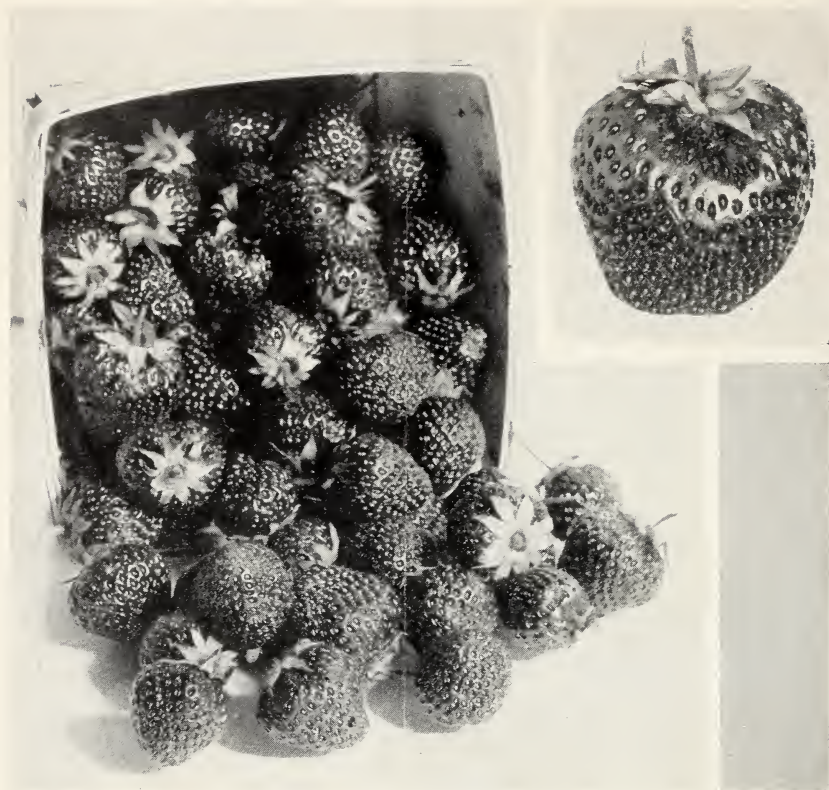


FIGURE 1.—Midland (U. S. D. A. 1812) strawberries.

fruit ripens with Blakemore or slightly later and is slightly earlier than Fairfax.

The fruit clusters are large and the berries very large; under conditions where it took 74 berries of Blakemore and 59 of Dorsett to make a quart it took only 38 of Midland. The berries are blunt wedge to short conic in shape, very smooth, and relatively uniform (fig. 1). The seeds are even with the surface or slightly raised. As the skin is very glossy and tough, the berries should have good shipping qualities. The berries are deep red, slightly darker than Dorsett but not so dark as Fairfax or Redheart. The flesh is rich red and juicy. The flavor is subacid, more acid than Dorsett; the dessert quality is good, not equal to that of Dorsett or Fairfax at their best, but still above that of most varieties. The fruit of Midland is much more highly flavored than that of Howard 17.

The tendency to fasciate may limit its adaptation south of Virginia, but so far this trouble has not been of any importance in Maryland.

Tests in a number of States in 1942 indicate that it is worthy of extensive trial in Maryland, Virginia, Connecticut, Michigan, Missouri, and Iowa. In 1943 it seemed sufficiently superior to present varieties at Norfolk, Va., Salisbury, Md., and Mountain Grove, Mo., to warrant introducing it as a general market variety for the northern part of the Blakemore region and the southern part of the Howard 17 region.

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION OF FRUIT

Form short blunt conic with wide shoulder, slightly irregular; size very large; pubescence on pedicel dense and somewhat ascending; calyx reflexed, medium-sized, rather deep set; color deep red, glossy; seeds yellow to red, even with surface or slightly raised, rather small; flesh deep red; texture tender; juicy; flavor sub-acid, aromatic; dessert quality good. Season early; slightly earlier than Fairfax, with Howard 17, and with Blakemore or slightly later.

FAIRPEAKE

The Fairpeake is introduced, as a sweet, high-flavored, home-garden, and general-market late variety of great beauty, for trial from Maryland to southern New England and west to Missouri and Iowa.

ORIGIN AND DESCRIPTION

The Fairpeake (U. S. D. A. 2119), a cross of Chesapeake by Fairfax, has the same parentage as Starbright and Redstar. The cross was made in 1931 by George F. Waldo, and the selection was made in 1933.

The plants are medium in vigor, make a fair number of runners, and are resistant to leaf spot and leaf scorch. They are more productive than Starbright. The berries ripen later than Starbright and earlier than Redstar, about with Gandy and Aroma. They are of medium to large size, somewhat irregular (fig. 2), rich red, with a

FIGURE 2.—Fairpeake (U. S. D. A. 2119) strawberries showing their variation in shape.



glossy skin tougher than that of most varieties. The general effect is very attractive. The flesh is firm, juicy, and red to the center. The flavor is generally sweet and rich, with considerable aroma. The dessert quality is high, above that of most varieties; at times even better than that of Dorsett or Fairfax.

Because Fairpeake is late in season, it should be grown in a moist soil. Its tendency to fasciate may limit its value south of Maryland.

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION OF FRUIT

Form wedge to short blunt conic; size medium to large; calyx clasping, sometimes reflexed, medium-sized; color uniform, bright medium red, glossy; seeds tending to be yellow but often reddish, raised, below average size; flesh light red; texture firm but juicy; flavor sweet; aromatic; dessert quality excellent. Season late; as late as Gandy in Maryland.



